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P21775.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Alfred BUBIK et al.)
) Applications Branch
Appln. No. : Not yet assigned (U.S. National)
Stage Appln. of Int'l Appln. No.)
PCT/EP01/04774)
Filed : April 27, 2001)
For : TWIN WIRE FORMER)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (Marked-up copies of the amended claims are attached to the Appendix):

3. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the angle (δ) assumes a value between 0° and 45° , preferably between 0° and 30° .
6. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that

the angle (β), at which the two wire belts (2, 3) run upward in relation to an imaginary second horizontal plane (H2) after the first deflection device (10), assumes a value between 10° and 90° , preferably between 25° and 40° .

7. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that isobaric dewatering elements (18, 19), as they are known, are arranged between the first deflection device (10) and the separating device (11), between which the forming fibrous web (4) runs, enclosed between the two wire belts (2, 3).
9. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the isobaric dewatering elements (18, 19) are designed as plates or as plate segments.
10. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that after the separating device (11), there is arranged at least one flat suction element (20), which acts on the wire belt (2) which carries the forming fibrous web (4).
11. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at the second deflection device (15), deflection of the wire belt (2) is carried out in such a way that the wire belt (2) subsequently runs downward at an angle (γ) less than

60°, preferably less than 40°, in particular less than 25°, relative to an imaginary second vertical plane (V2).

12. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
- at the second deflection device (15), deflection of the wire belt (2) is carried out in such a way that the wire belt (2) subsequently runs substantially horizontally.
15. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
- a further sheet forming device (22), preferably a hybrid former, is arranged after the second deflection device (15).
16. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
- the second deflection device (15) is a suction roll (13), a shoe (21) with foils or a shoe with foils and with applied vacuum.
17. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
- the distance (A) between the lower vertex (10.SU) of the first deflection device (10) and the upper vertex (15.SO) of the second deflection device (15) assumes a value between 1 and 8 m, preferably between 3 and 6 m.

18. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the first deflection device (10) is a closed roll (16), an open roll or an open roll with
applied vacuum.
19. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the separating device (11) is designed as a suction separator (17) and/or as a vacuum
shoe.
20. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the forming roll (7) has a diameter (D7) of greater than 1200 mm, preferably greater
than 1635 mm, in particular greater than 1760 mm.
21. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that
the forming roll (7) has a dewatering capacity which has a value of at least 50%,
preferably of at least 65%, of the total dewatering capacity of the twin-wire former
(1).
22. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that

the forming roll (7) is designed as an open roll.

25. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that

the roll diameter (D16) of the deflection roll (16) is greater than the roll diameter (D7)
of the forming roll (7) and/or the roll diameter (D13) of the suction roll (13).

26. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that

it has an overall height (H) in a range from 2 to 8 m, preferably from 3 to 6 m.

27. (Amended) Use of the twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1, in particular in
a former rebuild.

REMARKS

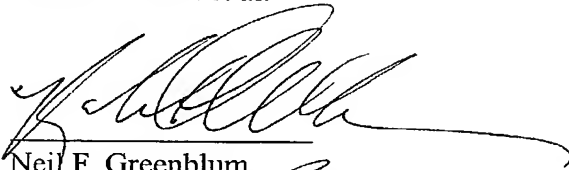
The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to
examination of the above-identified patent application.

Further, Applicants submit that the instant amendment has been presented to avoid
multiply dependent claims, and that the claims have not been narrowed and that this
amendment has not been made for any reasons related to a statutory basis for patentability.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred BUBIK et al.



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APPENDIX*Marked-Up Copies of the Amended Claims:*

3. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 1 [or 2],
characterized in that
the angle (δ) assumes a value between 0° and 45° , preferably between 0° and 30° .
6. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims]
claim 1,
characterized in that
the angle (β), at which the two wire belts (2, 3) run upward in relation to an imaginary
second horizontal plane (H2) after the first deflection device (10), assumes a value
between 10° and 90° , preferably between 25° and 40° .
7. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims]
claim 1,
characterized in that
isobaric dewatering elements (18, 19), as they are known, are arranged between the
first deflection device (10) and the separating device (11), between which the forming
fibrous web (4) runs, enclosed between the two wire belts (2, 3).
9. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in claim 7 [or 8],
characterized in that
the isobaric dewatering elements (18, 19) are designed as plates or as plate segments.

10. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
characterized in that
after the separating device (11), there is arranged at least one flat suction element (20), which acts on the wire belt (2) which carries the forming fibrous web (4).
11. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
characterized in that
at the second deflection device (15), deflection of the wire belt (2) is carried out in such a way that the wire belt (2) subsequently runs downward at an angle (γ) less than 60° , preferably less than 40° , in particular less than 25° , relative to an imaginary second vertical plane (V2).
12. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of claims] claim 1 [to 10],
characterized in that
at the second deflection device (15), deflection of the wire belt (2) is carried out in such a way that the wire belt (2) subsequently runs substantially horizontally.
15. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
characterized in that

a further sheet forming device (22), preferably a hybrid former, is arranged after the second deflection device (15).

16. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

the second deflection device (15) is a suction roll (13), a shoe (21) with foils or a shoe with foils and with applied vacuum.

17. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

the distance (A) between the lower vertex (10.SU) of the first deflection device (10) and the upper vertex (15.SO) of the second deflection device (15) assumes a value between 1 and 8 m, preferably between 3 and 6 m.

18. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

the first deflection device (10) is a closed roll (16), an open roll or an open roll with applied vacuum.

19. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims]

claim 1,

characterized in that

the separating device (11) is designed as a suction separator (17) and/or as a vacuum shoe.

20. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

the forming roll (7) has a diameter (D7) of greater than 1200 mm, preferably greater than 1635 mm, in particular greater than 1760 mm.

21. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

the forming roll (7) has a dewatering capacity which has a value of at least 50%, preferably of at least 65%, of the total dewatering capacity of the twin-wire former (1).

22. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

the forming roll (7) is designed as an open roll.

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25. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

the roll diameter (D16) of the deflection roll (16) is greater than the roll diameter (D7) of the forming roll (7) and/or the roll diameter (D13) of the suction roll (13).

26. (Amended) The twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,

characterized in that

it has an overall height (H) in a range from 2 to 8 m, preferably from 3 to 6 m.

27. (Amended) Use of the twin-wire former (1) as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in particular in a former rebuild.